Meeting of Indian ocean rim countries

1845. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether holding of meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Countries was discussed with the Prime Minister of Mauritius during Prime Minister's recent to visit that country; and

(b) if so, the venue, date and agenda of the proposed meeting and the names of the countries attending the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Countries came up for discussion during PM's visit to Mauritius. Since then, a Ministerial Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), involving its fourteen members, viz., Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania and Yemen has been held in Mauritius from March 5-7, 1997. India was represented by the External Affairs Minister. The substantive agenda of the Ministerial Meeting included the adoption of the IOR-ARC Charter, consideration of the Work Programme, consideration of criteria and guidelines for inclusion of new projects in the Work Programme, and deliberations regarding the coordination mechanism and future administrative arrangements for IOR-ARC.

कश्मीर नीति में परिवर्तन

1846. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारत सरकार ने भारत-पाक संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के मार्ग की सबसे बड़ी बाधा-कश्मीर समस्या के प्रति अपनी नीति में कुछ परिवर्तन किया है अथवा करने का विचार रखती है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) सेवा-निवृत फील्डमार्शल मानेकशा द्वारा हाल ही में इस संबंध मे दिये गये वक्तव्य के प्रति सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल): (क) से (ग) सरकार की सुसंगत नीति यह है कि सम्पूर्ण जम्मू और कश्मीर भारत संघ का एक अभिन्न भाग है। जिस मसले को सुलझाया जाना बाकी है वह पाकिस्तान के अवैध और बलपूर्वक हथियाए गए जम्मू और कश्मीर राज्य के क्षेत्र को खाली कराया जाना है। भारत, सभी भारत-पाक मसलों को शिमला समझौते के अन्तर्गत सुलझाने के लिए वचनबद्ध है।

German Foreign Minister's suggestion to join the CTBT

1847. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the German Foreign Minister, Mr. Klaus Kinkel during his recent visit to India, called upon India to join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, in what precise terms this suggestion was made; whether it linked with any other assurance for help or assistance; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Kinkel conveyed that it would be desirable if India signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). However, he appreciated India's position on the Treaty. His view point was not linked with any assurance for help or assistance.

(c) External Affairs Minister categorically conveyed to the German Foreign Minister that India would not now or later sign the CTBT and the NPT in their present form. India's stand on the CTBT has been principled and consistent.

India believes that the CTBT should be an integral part of a nuclear disarmament process leading to total elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework.

Recovery of arms in Chennai

1848. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN:
SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM:
SHRI R. MARGABANDU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantities of arms and ammunitions were recovered near Madhavaram in Chennai recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested in connection therewith;

(c) whether the involvement of any foreign national or agency has been identified so far; and

(d) whether Government have instructed the Government of Tamil Nadu to have strict givil throughout the State to avert any untoward incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) According to the information received from Government of Tamil Nadu, no arms and ammunition were recovered at madhavaram. However, the following Explosive Substances were seized at a Transport Godown, Madhavaram:

(i) 6,240 Gelating Sticks in 15 Bundles;

(ii) 1,500 Detonators in one bundle.

(b) 13 persons have been arrested and sent for remand.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The State Police has been alerted to be on the vigil.

Misappropriation of public fund in Uttar Pradesh

1849. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the newsitem published in 'Jansatta' of 13th January, 1997 under the caption "Uttar Pradesh main Sarkari Dhan Ki Loot Mein Kohi Bhi Phichey Nahin";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action being taken in this regard against those persons who are found quilty/involved; and

(c) if no action has been taken the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Improvement of conditions of prison

1850. SHRI O.P. KOHLI:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued notices to Union and all State Governments asking for their response within three months on certain legislative and administative measures suggested by the Court to improve conditions of prisons and to provide better facilities to prisoners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Centre and all State Governments submitted their responses into the matter; and if so, the final outcome of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS